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PATENT



In claim 8, line 9, following "leather grain layer disposed", please insert --directly and integrally--.

Please add the following new claims 11-20:

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11. A portable computing device comprising:

a housing having top and bottom shell portions hingedly connected proximate to a rear edge region of said shell portions, each of said shell portions having an outwardly facing surface and an inwardly facing surface, said inwardly facing surfaces facing one another when the top and bottom shell portions are swiveled along said hinge into a closed position;

a set of keys located on an inwardly facing surface of said bottom shell portion;

a display screen located on an inwardly facing surface of said top shell portion;

and

a leather grain layer disposed on an outwardly facing surface of said top shell portion; said top shell portion comprising a pair of raised lateral side edge portions bordering said leather grain layer on opposing sides of said top shell portion, said raised lateral side edge portions configured to help in protecting an edge of the leather grain layer from being damaged or delaminated due to heavy use or contact with hard surfaces.

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¹²
12. The portable computing device of claim 11 wherein said leather grain layer is disposed directly onto said outwardly facing surface of said top shell portion, without any intermediate structural layers.

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¹³
13. The portable computing device of claim 11 wherein said portable computing device comprises a hand-held or palmtop computing device.

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14. The portable computing device of claim 11 wherein said raised lateral side edge portions comprise a smooth surface.

¹⁵
15. The portable computing device of claim 11 wherein said raised lateral side edge portions comprise a top surface which is at least substantially coplanar with said leather grain layer and a side surface which is coextensive with the lateral sides of said outwardly facing surface of said top shell portion.

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16. The portable computing device of claim 11 wherein said leather grain layer comprises natural or synthetic leather.

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17. The portable computing device of claim 13 wherein said hand-held or palmtop computing device comprises a speaker or microphone.